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FOREIGN NEWS.

SPAIN.

THE MEETING OF THE CORTES POSTPONED—THE HAVANA VOLUNTEERS TO BE REORGANIZED.

MADRID, Monday, Dec. 25, 1871.

The meeting of the Cortes has been postponed until the 20th of January. Admiral Topete, Min-ister of the Colonies, has announced his intention of making a reform in the volunteer organization in Havana. Reënforcements continue to go forward to Cuba to aid in the suppression of the insurrection on that

PROPOSED COALITION OF THE CONSERVATIVES AND LEGITIMISTS.

PARIS, Monday, Dec. 25, 1871. The members of the Right Center in the National Assembly, having made overtures to the Legitimists for a coalition, the latter in reply say, they will usually coalesce, but at the same time will reserve their independence. They also announce their disapproval of the Orleanist Princes as leaders.

MONETARY DIFFICULTIES OF THE BANK OF

A serious difficulty has arisen in France in quence of the withdrawal of fur. is from that country, and especially of specie, for the payment to Germany f the installment on the war indemnity. The first signs of this appeared in the scarcity of small change, which trained hately be gan to disappear from circumstally lowest bills of the Bank of France were of the denomination of \$4, and great inconvenience was fell in making payments in smaller sums. The chief of the billy was experienced by the Bank, which found

GREAT BRITAIN

RELORM IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS-THE MALEI-INGS AT BIRMINGHAM-RUSKIN'S UTOPIA. IFROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE THIEUNE!

LONDON, Dec. 7 .- As the greater includes the cludes the question not of referming only but of abol-ishing the Heuse of Lerds, the Birmingham meeting has not made a great sensation. If Sir Charles Dilke had formers at formingham would have had much more attention. In any case, however, the prople who are in by a more proposition to reform the House of Lords. In form it altogether would be their cry; improve it off the face of the earth. Even this cry means only political modulum. Nobody vet proposes to abolish the Lords Individually, nor to suppress their times, still less to confiscate their property. It is the heredmary principle in legislation which is nacked out for destruction, and that is not a question theoretically, nobody says it would be a suitable thing to the order of the state of the s in the English system, works well practically, and ought to be retained for that reason. That is what their defense amounts to practically. Numerous rhetorical ornaments give effect and a certain popularity to this line of argument "This splended part of the British Constitution te a faverite phrase, and there are people who think it splend d, and who have accustomed themselves to retradespeeple do. The workingmen do not, neither do they appreciate the practical benefits of an institution which makes legislation tedions and expensive, and which has no other mission in these days than to obstruct

The meeting was well attended by the people of Eir-mingham, which is always a radical town, but some members of Parhament, who had been expected, were absent. Mr. P. A. Taylor, one of the most prominent leaders of the movement against the Lords, was kept at Long by ill health. Mr. Jacob Bright and Mr. Thomas is not very eager in the matter. Mr. John Bright felt stituents, but nobody needs to be told what his opinion are, or were, on the House of Lords. His two colleagues, Mr. Daxon and Mr. Muntz, and Mr. J. S. Wright, Pre-Sent of the Eirmongham Liberal Association, and one of Mr. Barcha's principal supporters, were the leading per sons in the morning meeting. Mr. George Potter, who edits The Berkice, was there to represent the working name occurs once or twice in the report of the proceedings, though I fancy he was not encouraged to make himself prominent. The hoeral and workingmen's associations in a great number of important towns, sent delegates. Edinburgh, Bradford, Halifax, Greenwich, Leicester, Leeds, Nottingham, Norwich, and many others were thus represented. Moderation of tone much the rule in English politics that the most sweeping reforms are advocated in the mijdest terms. The first resolution adopted is only a theoretical declaration against the hereditary principle. The second affirms the right of the representatives of the people to an ultimate decision on all questions of government or policy, and that a plan to insure this right ought to be adopted. Then a committee was appointed to see how these reso inflore could be carried into effect, including Mr. Taylor, Mr. Potter, Dr. Sandwith, Mr. J. D. Lewis, M. P., and s good many delegates unknown to the public. With that

The evening saceting was held in the great Town Hall where Mr. Bright has so often spoken, which holds, I should juffer, 6,000 persons, and which was densely growded. The two speakers of the evening were Mr. Auberon Herbert and Sir Charles Dilke. Mr. Herbert, though the brother of one Peer and the husband of another Peer's daughter, is as radical as if he lived on a Sollar a day and carned it. To him the House of Lords is a relic of a different civilization, and he is ready to see it become, after due deliberation, a thing of bistorical remembrance only. Sir Charles Dilhe's appearance had been prepared for in the usual conservative way by get

NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1871.

Cayenne pepper. The pepper was disagrecable, the zeal of the roughs was cooled by the Chairman's announcement that he had a competent police force at hand, and meant to use it, if necessary. Mr. Wright being known in Birmingham as a man of his word, the demonstration was less noisy than usual, and auch less persistent. For some minutes Sir Charles's of Royalty. Sir Charles was able, for the first time since his Newcastle speech, to address a public audience is quiet. He offered a practical suggestion toward reform; that some young [Radical Peer, could such a one be found, should stand for the House of Commons. He would be ineligible under present rules, but it might be possible, and by and by would surely be possible, to carry a resolution in the Commons cuabling him to take

Daily News excepted. That journal accepts the leadership of this effort, remarking that the House of Lords represents a territorial aristocracy and a dominant Church that are no longer what they were, while all around them has changed; that it has the sentiment and the instinct of privileges and prerogatives which it dare not exercise, or which it exercises occasionally in a manner to invite contempt; that it resists enough to irritate, reform is one of immediate and pressing importance, for frage a purely hereditary Upper Chamber is a dangerous

frage a purely hereditary Upper Chamber is a dangerous anomaly. Mr. Canning's prephetic words on this question are worth quoting:

"But all that I contend for is, that whatever reformation is proposed ought to be considered with some reference to the established Constitution of the country. That point being conceded to me, I have no difficulty in saying that I cannot conceive a constitution of which omethind part shall be an assembly delegated by the people, not to consult for the good of the nation, but to speak day by day the people's will, which must not, in a few days' sitting, sweep away every other branch of the Constitution should protein to stand arainst it. If government be a matter of will, all that we have to do is to collect the will of the nation, and having collected it by an adequate organ, that will is necessarily paramount and supreme. By what pretension could the House of Lords be maintained in equal authority and estishiction with the House of Commons when once the House of Commons should have become a direct deputation speaking the people's will, and that will be more than the House of Commons when once the House of Commons should have become a direct deputation speaking the people's will, and that will the will of the Government! In one way or other the House of Lords must act if it be to remain a concurrent branch of the Legislature. Either it must uniformly affirm the measures which come to it from the House of Commons or it must occasionally reject them. If it uniformly affirm, it is without the shadow of authority. But to presume to reject an act of the deputes of the whole national voice?"

The spot selected by Mr. Ruskin in which to commence this new Arandia for Events.

is new Arcadia for English workmen and of which he t for a retreat for some time. The Brownines, I believe, who is now in America, whose wife, Mrs. Li nh Linton, is the writer of those famous Sketches of Women in The off by Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Cowen having reinquished the place to him about three weeks ago. In Linton's early cupancy, about 1853 and 1854, (c). Stolzyman, the Polish -lived there with Mr. Linton. Stolzyman was one of the vide for a young couple in the service of his househo poor mechanic who seeks to refresh himself by that beverage. If the police authorities permit, Mr. Ruskin in

Dickens his singular treatment of Signor Mazzini. Mazzini lived for several years at Tavistock House, formerly occupied by Perry of The Morning Chronicle. Afterwards Dickens bought it. One day a person professing to be Mazzini craved charity at his door. Dickens sen The Mr. Osborne whose name figures in the "Hose in the Wall" business is an honest Costermonger, with a voice as broad as his wheelbarrow. Some time ago he was let £1,000 by a relative, I understand, which much sur prised the penniless cabbage-dealer. Always willing-and since his bequest able—to pay his share of expenses of Hole in the Wall movements, he has looked up his de-falcating brethren somewhat exactingly. Some papers Only the 21 a week for six weeks come from Reform League Funds, furnished by Glfu. The fus- which Con servative papers have chosen to make about Osborne quarrel with Odgen is quite uncalled for. It a Republic can said as much about a Tory club-squabble, it we set down as very bad manners.

AMERICAN PROTECTORATE OVER MEXICO. RUMORS OF NEGOTIATIONS BLIWEEN THE GOV-ERNMENTS (AT WASHINGTON AND MEXICO -DENIALS OF THE MEXICAN OFFICIAL

JOURNAL. Upon the debate in the Mexican Congress upon the proposition to grant extraordinary powers to the Government, the Opposition announced in the House, through one of its members, that Mr. Romero, Secretary of the Treasury, intended to resign in order to go in all haste to Washington and solicit an American protectorate, in the name of the Government of Imarez, already overwhelmed by the prespect of fermidable revolution. Secretary Romero was in the House at that very moment, but does not ap-appear to have denied the statement, although it was denied by the efficial journal in the following terms:

President Juarez will counteract the actual revolution without seeking protectorate from any one; the aid of he people, and the prestige of the Constitution which he sustains, confiding in the extraordinary means granted thereby, are all sufficient." Mr. Mariscal, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, made a speech on the 17th of November, referring to the blessings of peace and the dangers to the independence of the country in case it

should again be plunged into the abyss of civil war. He concluded his speech as follows:

The House will excuse me for having paused to lament a fact [I mean anarchy], which appears of secondary importance and which, nevertheless, will ensured our Republic in ignoring. My object was to demonstrate with a recent example the disrepute into which we will fall at all events, and especially because we will injure many special interest abroad, with the pronunclamicates that unfortunately have taken place, said disrepute will not only bring about a loss of all hope relative to internal improvements; it will occasion also, as I remarked at litst, a tremendous and almost inevitable danger—that of losing, it not our independence, at leasts part of Mexican territory. I am gratified to know, because I know it beyond a doubt, that the actual, dovernment of the United States does not think of acquiring unjustly, neither by force nor by craftiness, any portion of our territory; but the members of said Government may change; for in said people there is always a constant desire to annex sew territory, and all the different Governments have finally to yield and make concessions to said characteristic inclination. This, indeed, induced the great statesman, Mr. Seward, to acquire the lee-bound deserts of Alaska, and this, perhips, indiced the distinguished President Grant to propose with real the annexation of Santo Domingo. Let us reflect, gentlemen, that a part of our territory would be very useful and desirable to the United States. They will not wring it from us, certainly, as long as we preserve a show of peace, and while great enterorises may be realized, under the patronage of a Government, respected somewhat at least, and which, at the same time that they enrich our country, strengthening its independence, and capsolidating its tranquility, may be useful to the whole human race.

The Mexico Siglo XIX, one of the journals opposed to concluded his speech as follows :

The Mexico Siglo XIX, one of the journals opposed to the Government of Juarez, made the following an

nouncement on the 18th of November:

There is a rumor aftoat that Mr. Nelson the Minister to
the United States was last night with the President,
whom he advised to change the Cabinet. It is added
that since this confidential interview, the resolution to
change the Cabinet is irrevocable in the mind of the
President. If this is true, the rumor that has been circulating for several days of an American protecorate
being saked by the Government, would have a sinister
confirmation, for the independence and honor of the Republic.

This report, sydently relief by the

This report, evidently raised by the opposition to injure the Government in the cetimation of the people, caused considerable excitement. The next day the Diarie the together a lot of roughs and laying in a supply of The public will already have understood that this paper

THE ARRANSAS TROUBLES.

LAKE VILLAGE STILL HELD BY THE NEGROES. St. Louis, Dec. 25 .- A dispatch from Memphis says reports from Chicot County, Arkansas, state are pressing in horses and supplies, and had made prison ers of many white men, fearing the whites will arm and drive them from the county. They are being reënforces

REBEL VIEW OF THE RECENT OUTBREAKS. The Memphis papers contain accounts of reat depredations committed by negroes in Arkansas. What they say must be taken with many grains of al

people throughout the South:

The negro, James Mason, who, it is charged, has incited a lawless mob of his black brethren to deeds of bloodshed, is the same individual who last year had a controversy with W. B. Ragland for the position of County Judge. Unler the cloak of law he then raised a posse comitatus, composed of soveral hundred blacks, to prevent Ragland from opening court, and, through the influence of this mob, he succeeded in carrying his point, finsily receiving the Judgeship appentment in lieu of Ragland, who resigned. Mason is the son of a white planter of Chicot, was born and reared in that county and educated at Oberlin, Obio, and the St. Cyr Military School in France. The cause of the present trouble arises from the fact that, since Mason has been County Judge, certain railroad men have sought to cause the County Court to order an election for the purpose of voting county bonds in the sum of \$400,000 to a couple of projected railways—\$20,000 each—that these parties propose to build across the northern part of the county. As the proposed roads are of questionable impactance to the majority of the people, and will never benedit but a few of them at best, while even

WEATHER REPORTS.

SEVERE STORM IN CALIFORNIA. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24 .- A severe rain-storm, inches, which is 1 20-100 more than last year. The re-

inches, which is 1 20-100 more than mor year. The re-chamation levees in the swamp hands of, san Josquin and Sacramento Rivers have withstood the storm successfully. The ship Windyard was discussized in a gale at the mouth of the Columbia River. The steamer U.S. Grant was driven ashore near Astoria and is a total loss. Much other damage was done to the shipping on the Northern recast. It is now certain that the bark Live Yankee and schooner Amada Ayer are lost with all on board. The swamp land opposite Sactamento has been decaded from the Sacramento river. The towns of Steck-

DURUQUE, Iowa, Dec. 25 .- The recent snow from the West into Durague since Fieldy last until this evening. The spow is effectually blocking the roads, and breaking the telegraph wires in every direction. TRAVEL INTERRUPTED ON THE UNION PACIFIC.

OMARIA. Dec. 25.-Rawlins Station reports that no trains have passed either way since the 21st, and no prospect of any passing for two or three days. Larando Station reports that no trichs have possed there since Saturday. Cheyenne reports three trains lying there for the West.

there for the West.

GOVERNMENT WEATHER REPORTS.

WAS DEFARMENT.

WAS DEFARMEN

to New York. Probabilities

The barometer will probably rise very generally on Tuesday cast of the Mississipp River, and clear weather prevail, with low temperature north and west of the Ohio Valley. Mild and foggy weather in the Southern and Gulf Stares. Cloudy weather continue in the Lower Lakes, with falling temperature. Fog on the middle and East Athantic coasts tought, toilowed by clearing weather or Tuesday. Dangerous winds are not anticipated for this evening.

RAILROAD DISASTER-THREE MEN KILLED. DUBUQUE, Iowa, Dec. 25 .- On Saturday night a passenger train bound north on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minuesota Railroad, broke through the bridge over Shell Rock River at Rockford station, Iowa. precipitating the engine, caboose, baggage car, and one coach down 25 feet. James Judd the engineer, Bartlett, a brakeman and Robert White the fireman, were in stantly killed. The baggage-master had his leg broken and the express messenger was seriously, though not dangerously injured. Surgeons were at once sent from Codar Rapids to their relief, and returned to that place on Sunday with the dead and wounded.

LEAVENWORTH, Kausas, Dec. 25.-A special dispatch from Salina, Kansas, to The Times, says that 12 buildings were burned in that place yesterday, including one livery-stable, a harness and saddiery store, a drugone nvery states, a hardware store, two saloons and billiard-rooms, Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express-office, and Gels & Co.'s Bank. Loss, \$75,660; insurance small.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN SALINA, KANSAS.

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF THE PRESIDENT'S FATHER

CINCINNATI, Dec. 25 .- Jesse R. Grant's condiion has changed but little since Saturday. He can talk more distinctly, but is quite feeble, and his mind contin-ues to wander. His recovery is considered very doubtful.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. James Miller, a grocer, committed suicide in ...The Soldiers' Home at Knightstown, Ind., was desterlay. The inmutes will be transferred to the Dayton, Ohio.

Mrs. Sturdevant, wife of the Superintendent of saysile lastitute for the Blind, lost her life on Senday night by the on of a cost oil lame.

William Donovan, the farm laborer who mur-is employer, Mitchell, in Contra Costa, has been seutonced to be in Nas Francisco on Feb. 12. hanged in Nan Francisco on Feb. 12.

C. D. May. Secretary of State of Oregon, in reported to be a defaulter to the amount of \$14,000. An officer has been dispatched to fall Labe City to arrest bim.

A prisoner in the St. Louis calaboose at-impus to commit suicide, presents, by cutting his throat with the gred edge of a tin plate. He will recover. E. S. Alpart of Torouto, formerly confidential clerk of Mesers. Barelay, Brace & Ca. of Beffale, who has been iving in jail in the latter city for the last an months, charged with embessiement, has been acquitted on the Erit indictment.

THE RING SURVIVORS.

FORTHCOMING REPORTS OF THE BAR ASSO-CIATION AGAINST THEM.

THE SHERIFF'S, COUNTY CLERK'S, AND REGISTER'S ABUSES TO BE CORRECTED-THE PRINCIPALS OF THE JUDICIARY RING TO BE IMPEACHED-BARNARD'S ACTION IN TWEED'S CASE ILLE-

The Committee on Extortions, appointed by the Bar Association, has held several meetings lately, at which the material already collected has been under discussion, and a plan suggested, whereby the extortions practiced by the various city and county officials may be Register-the first of which would not, it is claimed, if legally conducted, return a larger income than \$20,000 : nate possessors, and furnish a large part of the means judges, though it would be manifestly wrong to make a to make a final report to the Bar Association at its nex thereon and present the evidence through the prope-

preme Court, through the medium of George G. Barnard, that a thisf who robs to the extent of millions of deliars

he was discharged on \$5,000 ball, although a competent the circumstances, non-bailable. The buil required was only law has been directly and flagrantly violated First: He had no power to issue the writ of habens orgus returnable before himself. The babeas corpus et requires that all such writs to inquire into the legality act requires that all such write to inquire into the legality of a prisoner's confinement in the County Jsil, prior to conviction, must be returnable before the Court of Oyer and Terminer, it one be in session. There was one in session at that time, Judge Ingraham, who had previously decided in a similar case that he had no jurisdiction, presiding; and perhaps this was the reason why the application for the writ was not made to the latter. Second: The Court of General Sessions had exclusive invisidiction of the criminal, if it were in session at the time of his arrest, and it was. This point, and the reasol of this Court to accept ball, are sustained by many decisions of the Supreme Court, and were not denied by counsel on the argument. counsel on the argument.

Third: The decision of a court cannot be overruled in that, or any other court, between the same parties, except on appeal. Therefore, the decision of Judge Bedford refusing bail was final, and could only be reviewed by an appeal to the General Term of the Supreme Court.

This point is fully covered and sustained by Judges Clerke, Mitchell and Davis, in General Term of the Supreme Court, in the case of Cunningham (otherwise

Viewed, therefore, in the light of these well-established principles of law. Judge Barnard's action admits, in the judgment of the Committee, of but one of two constructions: either he was so grossly ignorant of the decision of his own, and of all courts, as to be utterly incompetent for his high position; or, he misused that position, and deliberately violated the laws of the land, to prevent the ounishment of the land's greatest criminal.

hain of evidence of improper conduct in office of which Judge Barnard is dally and openly guilty.

REPERLE ABUSES. AN EXPLANATION BY A FRIEND OF THE

To the Iditor of The Iribune.

SIR: The publicity given by THE TEIBUNE to certain facts in connection with the exercise by Justices Barnard, Cardozo, and Ingraham of the power vested in them by law to refer causes and questions of a peculiar character to referees for trial, seems to require ttention and public remark by other than prejudiced lawyers and over-zealous reformers. That apparent de mand must be the excuse for this communication, which t is not doubted you will publish, notwithstanding that its burden will be a direct attack upon conclusions drawn and positions assumed in your columns, con-

its burden will be a direct attack upon conclusions drawn and positions assumed in your columns, condemnatory of our great and good Judges, Barnard, Cardoro, Ingraham, and McCunn, each of whom I maintain to be the equal in legal attainments and every moral quality of-well, of Jeffreys himself.

If the supreme Court in the wise performance of its judicial functions determines that an applicant for admission to practice at the bar ought, as in the case of Mr. William M. Tweed, for instance, to be admitted, the same Court is bound, by all its principles of honor and equity, to see that, when admitted, such person shall be provided with practice or its money equivalent. With your well known sense of justice, you will not dispute this plain proposition. Now there are some men, infortunately, whatever the courts may decree concerning them, in whom foolish eligints absurdly refuse to repose any confidence. Therefore it is necessary, and to these men doubtless seemingly highly proper, that the Court, confiding in their learning and integrity, should be bound to send references, so that, if lacking clientage, they shall not want for support.

Do you really think that it is a just cause of complaint, as stated by Titz Tribitus, that so many references are sent by Justices Ingraham, Barnard, and Cardozo to their respective sole referees, Ingraham, r., Coleman, and Natham? Clearly not. It is painfully evident that the editorial ear has been assailed with intent to deceive by solice annaturitawyer, to whom no reference was ever sent. I think I may safely venture to say that, if you had gone instead to the "Gratzs" thenselves or to their lawyers and elicats, in whose favor they are accustomed to decide, you would have heard nothing, of the complaint you have published against them. Why do you not go to James Flak, jr., or the Erie Railway directors, when you want the wuth about Barnard or his "Gratz". oleman ! The law absolutely demands that, in the exercise of the

Coleman!

The law absolutely demands that, in the exercise of the power to refer conferred on the judges, the utimost care and caution shall be displayed in order that causes shall not be referred to lawyers defisient in ability or integrity, or wanting in common honesty, or, in abort, to any others than men super-eminently learned in the law. The imperative requirement impressed upon the court is, that the keenest judicial actumen of the justice and the most thorough and comprehensive knowledge of human nature be brought to bear in the selection of referees, so that such selections shall be in every way worthy of the high and dignified effected reference of the court. Therefore, it follows that, when a Barnard, a Cardozo, and an Ingraham—so distinguished on the Bench for their purity, and for the manner in which they parform their high and delicate functions—select as referees Coleman, Rathan, said Ingraham, ir, respectively, they have, beyond all question, discharged their duty in that regard, and neither disappointed clients, rejected lawyers, or disaffected editors have any right to grumble. The judges know their business and their men. Why do these judges, you ash, overlook in the selection of referees such men a Philo T. Ruggles, C. A. Peabody, ex-Judge Leonard, Gov. Tilloteon, Marshall S. Bidwell,

William Mitchell, and others, known as men of deep legal learning and unsulled professional reputation? Would you have our Judges appoint men of whom they know nothing! Barnard, Cardozo, Ingraham, and McCunn have doubtless heard of the men whom I have named, but they never met them. The aocial proclivities and most fondly cherished legal duties of our Judges lead them into closer intercourse and warmer intimacy with men of an entirely different character. I claim it as to the credit of the aforesaid Justices, that neither of them were ever suspected of so injudicious a procedure as the appointment of a person as referee whom they did not know, and had no means of ever becoming acquisited, much less familiarly associated, with.

You dispute Judge Barnard's right to a "Gratz," as you call him; and, by the way, in coining this name of reproach The Traibune has addied upon these able men who do the heavy work of the Courts titles which will haunt them to their dying day. In answer, I claim that my friend Barnard may, with perfect propriety, unless some impertinent shyster interferes with a written consent to the contrary, select James M. Coleman as his referee. Who knows so well as the Judge the peculiar reasons and qualifications so well befitting him for this semi-judicial position? Have not Judge and referee many a time and often hown to the four winds of heavens grave legal doubts amid the smoke of their twin post-prandial cigars? Have they not together cut the gordine knot of many a famous legal contest with the same blade on occasions of their joint attacks upon Delmonico's fricaseed fowls? And have they not drawn legal inspiration in their most brilliant moods, glorious with the sentullations of genius, from the same antiquated sources (labeled Old Onard), and dissolved their troubles on pertinent questions of labele in shirtering down like showfakes in sun-

It remains now, in drawing this communication to its close, to consider the charge that great emoluments are made to accrue to the benefit of the chosen of the court. Do you deny that the laborer is worrthy of instruct it is said there is no excellence without streat labor. It may be said with equal truth that there are report fees without a wast expenditure of time and talefil on the part of the referee. It is no light matter to have the weight of the labor incident to the disposition of an extensive handed estate resting on the mental shoulders of one individual. It can only be compared to Arlas upbearing a world. It is not the waste of pictian muscle, or the mere labor of the hands. It requires calling into operation aid the activities of the brain and all the lofty cuercies of the mind to put machinery into successful operation under the often complicated decrees of the court for a sale of partinonial acres. Not only that, but so as to not the greatest amount of proceeds in cash, and insure the well-examed allowance of fees appearing of record, if at all, in that carefully prepared literary and financial work found at the extreme end of the proceeding, called in technical language. The Final Report of Distribution. Very few persons not personally interested in such a work, ever know the great literary, not to say disancial ability, often displayed in this the referee's last, greatest work. It is in the preparation of this work that the aid of the Court is called, in the persons of the referring Judges, to sustain and refresh the exhausted energies of the now worn out "gratz" by such soothing solace as they alone know how rightfully to yield. And on foreclosures how like

pary.
This, I take it, you will admit to be a complete refuta-tion of the charges you have made; and no more re-

This, I take if, you will aliant the charges you have made; and no more remains to be said to entirely counteract the perulcious effects of the articles already published in your columns.

AMICES CURLE. [Evidently nothing more remains to be said. The defender of the "Gratzes" has unquestionably exhausted the subject from his point of view, and Coleman, Nathan, and Ingraham themselves could hardly prepare a more brilliant and original brief

appear before the Legislature.] SUBURBAN RINGS.

for the defense of their judicial patrons when they

THE LONG ISLAND CITY AND NEWTOWN FRAUDS. The members of the Reform Associations, omposed of tax-payers of the town of Newtown and of Long Island City, are alive to the importance of the suits now pending before the Board of Supervisors of Queens County, relative to the exorbitant charges made by the Justices and Constables for their services, and are now endeavoring to ascertain in what mauner the present heavy bonded debt of the two corporations has been incurred. That the two corporations have been out-rageously swindled there would seem to be little doubt. An examination of the Justices' and Constables' bills, as undited by the town Board of Auditors, shows claims (some of which are for only six months' service) amountng to \$24,288 17. In several of the bills to which exception has been taken by the tax-payers the Justices failed to give the names and residences of the complainants, and the bills emfrace charges in critinual cases in Long Island City for a time. when the officers had no jurisduction within the limits of the city. In several of the bills charges for refixamination on the same day are charged extra. In many instances in the Constables' bills the mileage is charged six' times for the same travel in as many different cases. Sone Constable's bill shows seven arrests in one day and 182 miles of travel, In the examination before the Board, on Friday, one of the Constables admitted that they could not tell what services they had rendered, as their bills had been made out by the Justices, and the work charged for had been divided. At thee last examination, county Judge Armistrong appeared as associate counsel with Surrogate Covert for the defendants, but on being told by Supervisor Graham that the cases might come before the Grand Jury in a manner that would involve his client, he concluded to withdraw from the suits. The Board meets again to-day, and a further hearing in the matter will be had. The taxes in Long Island City this year are at the rate of \$6.11 per \$500, and in Newtown many property owners assert that the rents from their property will not cover the taxes. The rate in Newtown is \$7.81 per \$100.

It is alleged that in the town of Newtown there are tion has been taken by the tax-payers the Justices falle

many property-owners assert that the rents from their property will not cover the taxes. The rate in Newtown is \$7 st per \$100.

It is alleged that in the town of Newtown there are hundreds of themsands of dollars of property assessed at less than one-tenth of its actual value, and that land worth \$5000 per acre is valued at \$100, and its awamp land, at \$50; and that throughout the lists the greatest inequalities are apparent. The Tax-payers' association has employed special counsel, and will be assisted by the Corporation Conneel of Long Island City. Reform associations are to be formed in every school district to send representatives to a central committee. Many of the wealthy residents of Newtown have already signified their willingness to centribute money to ferred out the frauds and punish the perpetrators. The bills of the Constables and Justices are in the custody of the County Clerk, and will be placed in printed form before the public.

RIOT IN CHELSEA, MASS. Boston, Dec. 25. Early this morning in Chelsea, while quelling a disturbance, City Marshal Drury was struck in the face with a brick, and stabbed several times in the neck. He shet one of the rioters, named Sheltoe, whunding him seriously in the neck. Twelve of the rioters were arrested.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. Senator elect A. A. Sargent has left San Practice for Washington overland.

....The Grand Duke made a tour of the City of Bullio restoring, and afterward visited Post Perter, where he was received by the electrony military became. He attached the Andemy of Music in the overland, to their Purspa Reen in the open of "Martha."

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

DEFECTS OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

PROM A REQULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE!
WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—It is in the Government departments in this city that one hears the most ment departments in the city that one hears the most thorough and judicious criticism of the plan of Civil Service reform prepared by Mr. George William Curtis and his fellow Commissioners. The bureau offi-cers and ithe experienced and intelligent clerks, from long familiarity with the defects and evils of the present system, are the most sincere, earnest, and well informe advocates of reform than any class of Government employés. Their opinion of the new system pro-posed by the Commission is almost unanimously that i at reforms the abuses in the appointment of public of fully carried out, the new system will insure the appointment of good men to office without gard to their political opinions or the strength of their political "backing;" but they say that this is but half the work that must be accomplished; if the Civil Service reform is to be effective, the good noval without cause. The tenure of office must depend upon the industry, efficiency, and good behavior of the appointee, and not upon the caprice of the head of a de-

ments." said an old Treasury clerk, recently, in discussing this subject, "the greatest evil connected with the Civil Service is the uncertain tenure of office. No man knows that he may not any day find a yellow envelope on his desk with a note inside say ing, 'Your services are no longer required.' He may be discharged without cause and without warning in the think that indirectly their plan will make a profit secure tenure of office for capable officials, from the facand perhaps not in a majority of cases. A Secretary can as subservient, politically, to their superiors who pofletency of alleged causes for removal. When a cierk of for worthlessness or misconduct would never ask to com-before the Board, and probably few cases would everisdiction heads of departments, and other others has motives for the good of the service alone." A Bureau officer in one of the Departments, discussing

lieve we can get a good Civil Service system until the tenure of office is fixed during good behavior. Here is where the Commissioners have left their work incomgood men in the lower grades, and making promotion depend upon merit, that it would be hard to improve ticians if you want to keep men of experience, skill, and integrity in place. The reform the Commission profor the present rates of pay; and, with the efficient the service, the work in all the departments could be

Government employes as one of the chief cylls of the present Civil Service system—or want of system. The experience of hundreds is like that of a gentleman who states his case as follows: "I have been a clerk in the Interior Department for nine years, and have never telt my position secure enough to warrant me in buying a little place and keeping house. When I came here they war was going on, and no one knew how it would cred; then we had Andy Johnson for four years, and, as a E publican, I felt that I might be 'spotted,' as they call it, any day. When Grant came in I should have been all right for four years, but the force has some of the offices was reduced, and we expected it would be in ours. Then my member of Congress went out, and I had no political influence to keep me in. So it has happened that for nine years I have lived with my wife and child in boards ing-houses and saved nothing. If I had known when I came here that I should stay so long, I might now have owned a comfortable house, bought with the money I could have saved by living in a home of my own. Some clerks buy houses, I know, but it is a great risk. One of my friends had just got settled in a house he had made one payment on, when he was removed. He look all he paid, and sold his furniture for one-third of its

The uncertain tenure of office is complained of by

The hope is expressed among the clerks and other Department and Bureau officers that when Congress comes to consider the report of the Commissioners, and, in conpliance with the President's recommendation, to enach it into law, as it is believed will be done, the defect in these rules will be remedied, and some wise restriction 1 put upon the power of removal.

A VIRGINIA CUSTOM-HOUSE. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: As the theory of Reform in the Civil Service is now adopted by the President, some i lustrations of the practical workings of Government patronage in the South may not be without interest to your reader.

The small custon - district of Yorktown, Va., will do as an instance to begin with. Under the administrations of Buchanan, Pierce, Fillmore, and others, the expenses of the Custom-House here slid not exceed \$600 or \$800 a year.
The tunnage of the district was then double what it has been since the war. Now, the Government pays \$3,000 a year for running the same office, the labor in which pital money from some 70 or 80 small oyster vessels. The Custom-House is by law established at Yorktown, some 25 miles up the river, to the great inconvenience and disgust of those having business with the office. The "Collector of Customs" keeps a tavarn there. He has probably never given ten minutes attention to the duties of the office since he held it. Two deputies are allowed him, at an expense to the Government of the day; one of them is a negro who can neither read nor write. A liberal allowance for reut and fuel is allotted the office as Yorktown; this is of course a clear gain to the Collector. What the deputies and to do it is similarly to say; but as

Yorktown; this is or the solid to do it is difficult to my what the deputies find to do it is difficult to my the Collector, beside keeping a tavers, is a my the Virginia Benate, his deputies may flud conget pation as hostler and bar-keeper in his absence.

The attention of Secretary Boutwell has been the stantion of Secretary Boutwell has been made sensitive members. the Vircinia Sanate, his deputies may flud congenial occupation as hostier and bar-wesper in his absence.

The attention of Secretary Boutwell has been called to
this state of effairs by some sensitive members of th
Republican ps. 17, but without avail. They know the
the cervices of a competent and attentive person, wh
would discharge all the duties of the effect himself, coulbe had for itse than 2000 a year. The threwing away of
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and conscionations persons toward a Government while
to anotions such proceedings are unavoidably dispushaired and centerally. The elections show the effect of
the popular mind. The white vote here comprises a fair
per contage of Recthern cettlers of Republican and
codents, and two years ago the Republican progestion
in was about i per cont, whereas new it is not over three
In some countries there are no Republican progestion
and avantage is supposed to accrue from delving into the
dung-heap of imbedility and corruption. I may labe
of further.

Farkseen, Va., Dec. 18.